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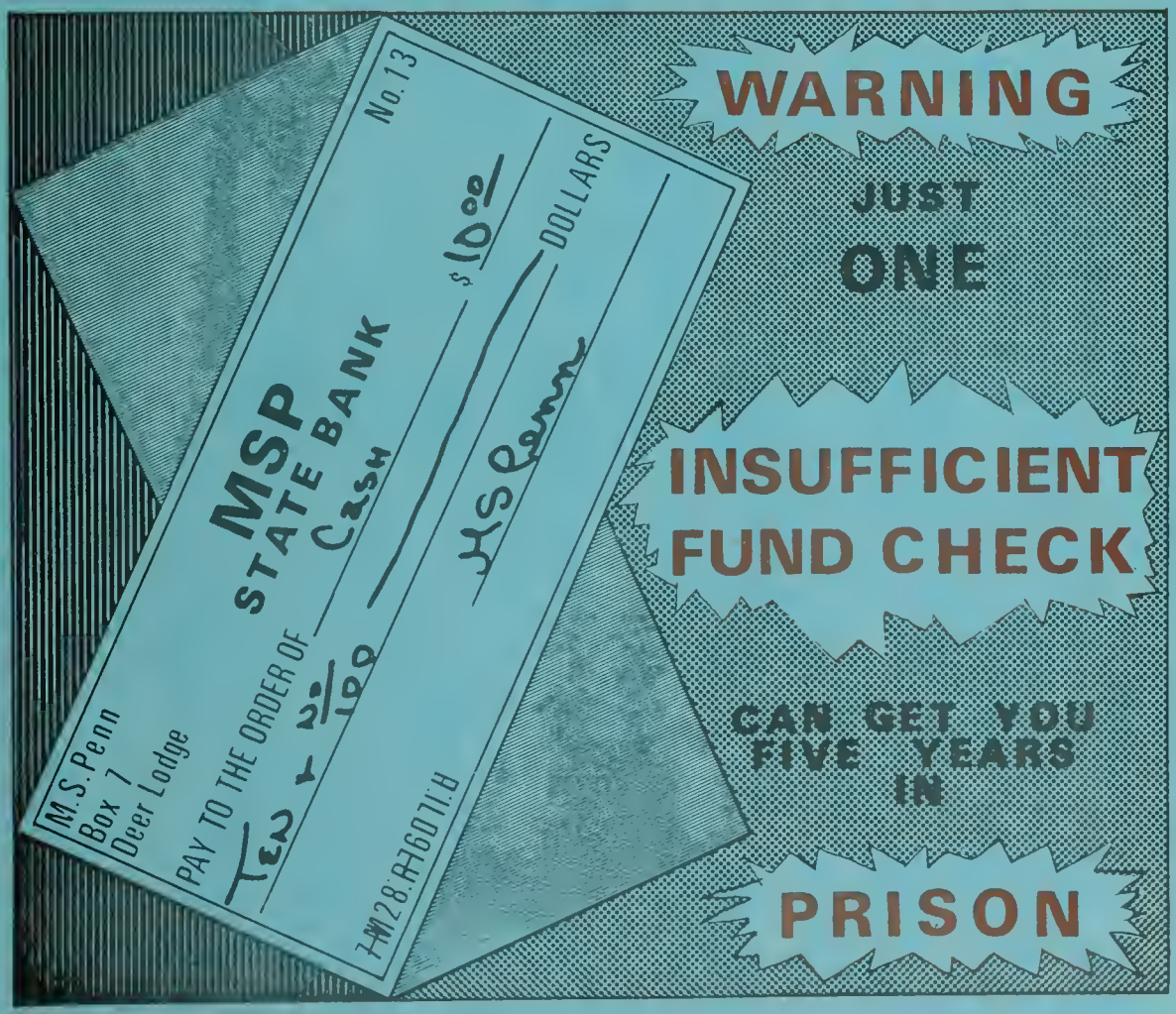

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Long & Short Of It

The M.P NEWS is published monthly by the men of Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge, Montana, with the permission of the Warden, Prison Administration and the Board of Institutions.

The purpose of this publication is to give inmates the opportunity for self expression; to provide a medium for discussion of public problems; to foster better understanding between inmates and the public; and to be constructively informative.

The M.P. NEWS does not, nor is it intended to reflect the view or opinions of the Board of Institutions or the Staff of Montana State Prison.

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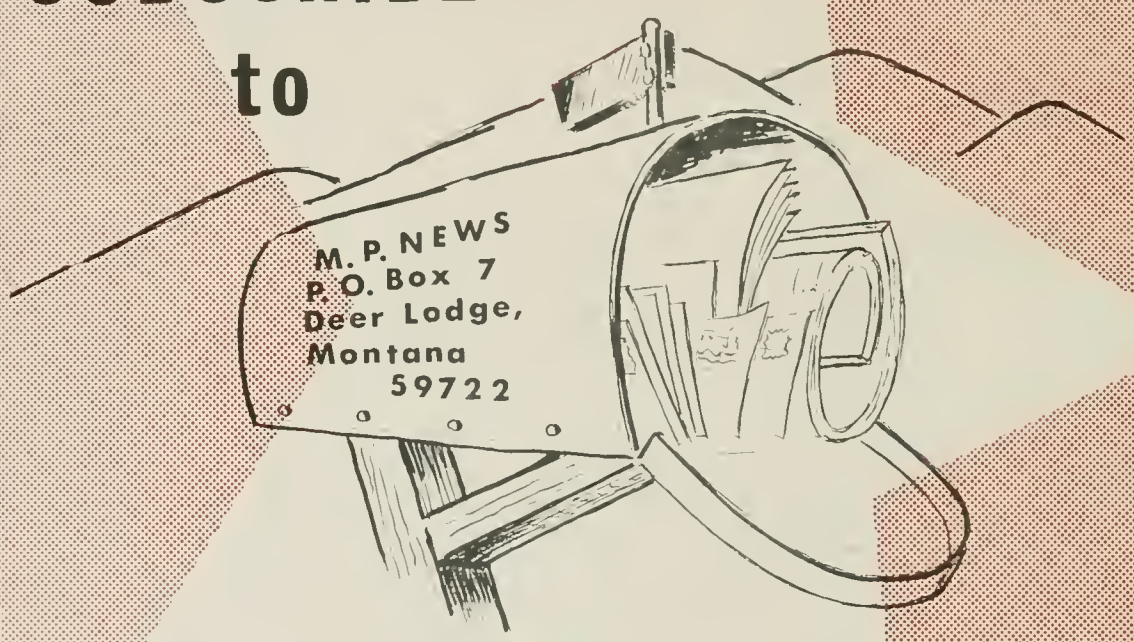

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PAGE ONE

MPnews EDITORIAL

CONVICTS ARE PEOPLE

He is! He was! And, for so long as there are two people on the face of the earth to pass judgement, one on the other, there will be.

The observation leads one to conclude that innocence or guilt has very little to do with the term, and the conclusion is correct. Being a convict merely concerns the circumstances of evidence, opinion or suspicion as such is held to be true in the minds of those who impugn him; consequently, a convict may be guilty----he might be innocent.

But the word convict carries with it a connotation which we, prone to categorize, tend to surround with an image. We see, in our mind's eye, the incarcerated as a scar-faced, shaven-headed, heavy-jowled animalistic creature in a drab uniform. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Curiously enough, convicts look just like people: Some good and some bad; some handsome and some ugly; some are men and a few are women------quite frequently they are juveniles. They come in assorted sizes: round, tall slender, short and intermediate dimensions. They have a tendency to laugh, weep, love, hate, suffer and aspire to better stations in life. They are notoriously generous and notoriously bad------bad only to the degree their sins were uncovered. Some good convicts turn bad; some bad convicts turn good. Most of them were bron to human parents----which is rather conclusive evidence that they are probably people.

Who is a convict? Possibly for the fact of not having been caught, you could have been a convict. You could have been accused and convicted of an offense in which you are innocent. You could have had a smell of alcohol on your breath when you were involved in that accident. You could have killed another in the white heat of passion. You could have bent under the pressure of financial loss and depression. You could have been a convict----guilty or innocent----but, beyound a few wrinkles on your brow or a scattering of new gray hair, do you think it would have changed your appearance?

Lady, remember the butcher who smiled so pleasantly and patted a little more ground round on the scales? Would you believe that the gentleman at the counter ahead of you was the butcher's parole officer?

How about the mechanic who owns the little garage where you get the car tuned up? Did you know that he is still on parole?

There's the cashier down at the bank. Nope! He's not a convict, not yet anyway. But he will be just as soon as the bank examiner comes around.

So, who is a convict? Is he the guy who works with you at the office, the repairman, your neighbor, a relative, or just someone you read about?

Whoever he was, is, or will be, it's safe to conclude that convicts ARE PEOPLE.

SWAN RIVER YOUTH FORESTRY CAMP

The Swan River Youth Forestry Camp located on State Forest land, almost in the heart of the Flathead National Forest, accomodates some twenty-five delinquent youngsters between the ages of eighteen and twenty.

Mr. Mel R. Mohler, Superintendent, and Mr. Gerald R. Underwood, Assistant Superintendent, direct the activities at Swan River. The setting of the camp is, in itself, awe inspiring. Built of native stone and taking full advantage of the surrounding terrain, the physical plant; an administration building, dining room, living and recreational quarters bear a strong resemblance to a fashionable ski lodge.

Youngsters assigned to the camp are all busily engaged in assignments for the State Forestry Department. Duties include thinning and planting trees. The manufacture of State Forestry signs and picnic tables. During the summer months some of the youths man fire lookout stations.

But the most outstanding feature seems to be the relationship between the young men themselves and the members of the staff. They work and live in a relaxed atmosphere and at least on the surface there is no bitterness.

Summer months are filled with activities including hiking, fishing, swimming, and overnight camping trips.

Weekly trips into Kalispell are conducted and spiritual counseling for the youngsters is provided by the Clergy of Big Fork.

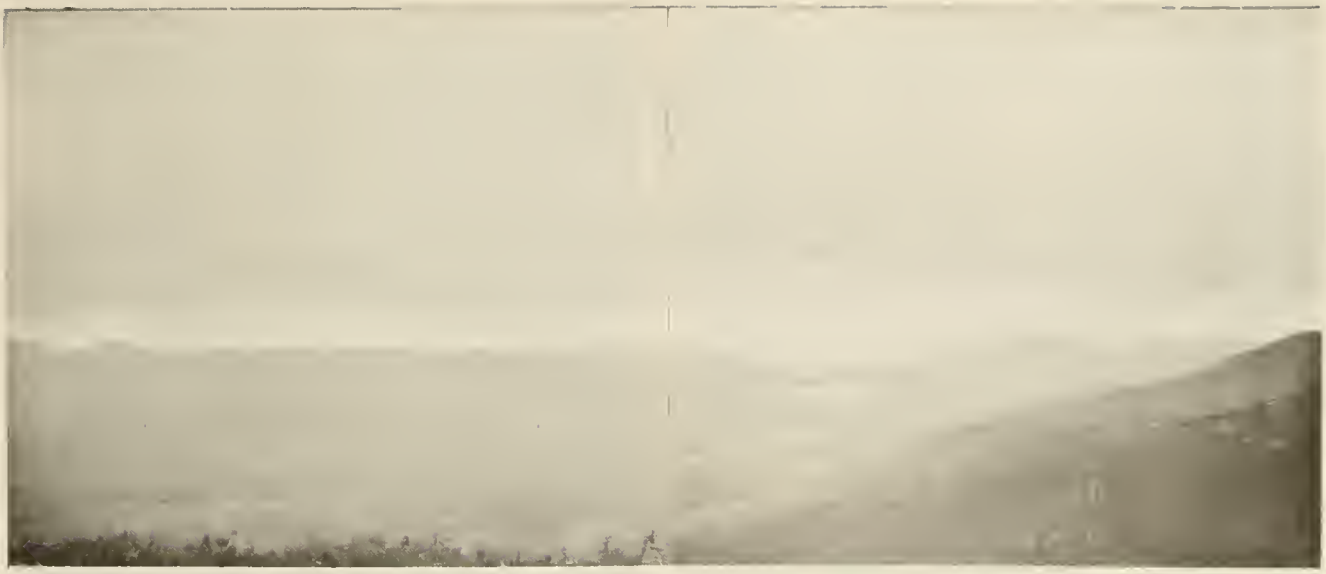
Administration Building
Swan River

MPnews

VIEW FROM.....

NAPA LOOKOUT

Elevation 7000 ft.
overlooking the
Swan River Valley



.....NAPA LOOKOUT

WORKSHOP

Swan River Youth Forestry Camp

LOUNGE
(DORMITORY)
Swan River Youth Camp

As you watch and talk to these youngsters it makes you think but then you remember----As a few strokes on the nose will make a puppy head shy, so a few rebuffs will make a boy shy all over. But whereas a puppy will cringe away or roll on his back, groveling, a boy may cover his shyness with nonchalance, bravado, or with secrecy. And once a youngster has suffered rejection, he will find rejection even where it does not exist---or, worse, will draw it forth from people simply by expecting it.

Well thanks to Mel Mohler, Gerald Underwood, and the other members of the staff these youngsters are beginning to learn that they haven't been completely rejected, that there are---people who care, who are concerned about them. And you'll darn sure have to show me that there's a better attitude for reformation----for building--boys into men!!!!!

NEW! NEW! NEW!

VISITING FACILITIES

by JOHN RADFORD

A few months ago the MP News had an article about A Postage Stamp and an Inch of Glass. These things are a man's link to the outside world. The Postage stamp is his link to friends and family through the mails. This admittedly can be rather a distant and weak link, but is none the less important for all its distance. The inch of glass has been a man's link to his friends and family through the visiting facilities at M.S.P.

But since this article was published, there has been a change. This change in the visiting facilities has been a welcome relief from trying to speak and hear through a speaker set in this inch of glass. Or speak through screened bars which made it almost impossible to make out the features of your visitor. In the old visiting area it was difficult to hear or be heard. I always had the feeling that I was competing with all the other noise for my privilege of visiting. It also seemed as though everyone else was listening to everything I, or my visitors, had to say.

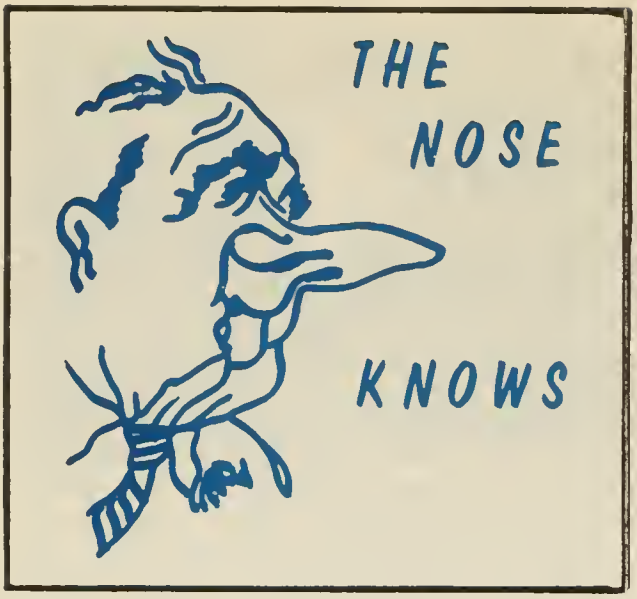
Now when weather permits, inmates may visit outside. This new visiting area is located just south of tower seven, on the grass between the wall and the administration building. Tables have been set in this area. The inmate sits on one side of the table and his visitors on the other. Here, in the new visiting area, with the tables spaced well apart, distracting noise is almost unnoticeable. New visiting regulations for this area allow a man to show a little affection by permitting him to embrace his visitor at the beginning and conclusion of his visit.

In the new visiting area I also have a closer feeling toward my visitor. A person can also get more said in a shorter time because you are not being constantly interrupted by another inmate or officer.

The new visiting area is also an asset to the rehabilitation of a man. Key words in rehabilitation are human contact and love. With the new visit-area and the added privileges, human contact is possible and love is much more easily shown. The visiting area ...does not make visitors feel as though they are visiting a man with none of life's privileges. I feel that this more humane visiting procedure could be called neither "coddling" the criminal or considered a serious reduction in security, I feel the benefits far outweigh the small problems it may create.

Although the area with the tables is fine for visiting during good weather---I would like to see the screen, through which visiting takes place during foul weather, torn down. This wouldn't solve the noise problem, but it would make visiting a far more, pleasant experience. When people come 300 miles or more to visit a friend or relative, and then try to have to view someone through a screen and carry on a conversation through the noise, it makes for a very frustrating visit.

These new visiting privileges are a great help in the rehabilitation of an inmate. I, for one, can only hope that this is just the beginning of such programs and improvements to help the inmate. If this type of progressive program can continue, I feel that there will be fewer men that become, "Institutionalized" due to losing contact with society. Although this change is just a small one, I feel it is a major one, and may be the beginning for everyone concerned.



DEAR NOSE: Do I ever have problems. I'm going bald. My teeth are falling out. I have both arthritis and bursitis and on top of that I have a lousy sense of humor. I used to be twenty pounds overweight, so I went on a diet overdid it and now am fifty-two pounds underweight. Do you have any suggestions as to where I can get some help?

SIGNED TROUBLED

DEAR TROUBLED: Why not worship this week at the Fenwick Q. Finster of your choice? Remember....the Fenwick Finster that prays together stays together!

DEAR NOSE: I know you write under the name of Nose Knows and it's supposed to be a secret or something for some reason and all that, but who are you for real: No funnsies now.

SIGNED T. S.

DEAR T. S.: I am he without whom this correspondence would not only be impossible, but highly ridiculous.

DEAR NOSE: There is an informer in our group. What should we do about him?

SIGNED DON'T LIKE INFORMERS

DEAR D. L. I.: Plato once said: "If God had meant us to inform, He would have put telephones in our navels." Going on this assumption, you must both be a couple of ding-a-lings. Why not keep the informer advised of all the true and psrtinent data? That eay, at least you know he's not lying about you.

DEAR NOSE: After reading your column quite regular, I have come to the conclusion that you are pretty intelligent. My question is: What is a nice person like you doing in a place like this writing for a rag like this, huh?

SIGNED DISMAYED

DEAR DIS: I was once important, but they revoked my godhead for operating a life without a license.

DEAR NOSE: If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, how many feathers are there on the left wing of a King Vulture?

SIGNED SEABISCUIT

DEAR SEABISCUIT: Two thousand, nine hundred and fifty-two point zero zero zero three. But only if Cecil sells seashells at the seashore.

DEAR NOSE: Why don't we have four radio stations to choose from instead of just three?

SIGNED RADIO BUG

DEAR RADIO BUG: It's hard enough finding three hockey games, three religious programs or three of anything alike all at the same time, let alone four.

DEAR NOSE: Who assasinated Abraham Lincoln?

SIGNED HELP

DEAR HELP: I'm not sure, but I think he cells on nine gallery and works for the MP News

ODE TO LITTLE GIRLS

Little girls are the nicest things that can happen to people. They are born with a little bit of angel in them and though it wears terribly thin at times, there is always enough left over to lasso your heart-----even when they are sitting in the mud, or crying tempermental tears, or parading up the street in mothers best clothes.

A little girl can be sweeter (and badder) more often than anyone else in the world. She can jitter around, stomp, and make funny noises that frazzle your nerves. But when you open your mouth to tell her to be quiet, she will stand there with that special look in her eyes that melts your heart.

A little girl is Innocence playing in the sand; Beauty standing on her head; and Motherhood dragging a doll by the foot.

Little girls are available in five colors: black, white, red, yellow, and brown; yet Mother Nature always manages to select your favorite color when you place your order. There are millions of little girls, but each one is more precious than her weight in diamonds.

God borrows from many creatures when He makes a little girl. He uses the song of a bird, the squeal of a pig, the stubborness of a mule, the antics of a monkey, the spryness of a grasshopper, the curiosity of a cat, the speed of a gazelle, the slyness of a fox, and the softness of a kitten. Then, to top it all off, He adds the mysterious mind of a female.

A little girl likes new shoes, party dresses, small animals, first grade, noisemakers, the little girl next door, dolls, kitchens, coloring books, make-up, cans of water, going visiting, tea parties, and maybe one boy.

She doesn't care much for visitors, boys in general, large dogs, straight chairs, vegetables, snow suits, or staying in the yard.

She is the loudest when you are reading, the prettiest when she has provoked you, the busiest at bedtime, the quietest when you want to show her off, and the most flirtatious when she absolutely must not get the best of you again.

Who else can cause you more grief, joy, irritation, satisfaction, embarassment, and genuine delight, than this combination of Eve, Salome, Florence Nightingale, and Mata Hari?

She can muss up hour home, your hair, and your dignity; she can spend your money, your time, and your temper----then, when your patience is ready to crack, her sunshine peeks through and you've lost again.

Maybe she's a nerve-wracking nuisance; a noisy bundle of mischief. But when your dreams tumble down and your world is a mess; when it seems you are pretty much of a failure, she can make you a King or a Queen by climbing on your lap and whispering: "I love you best of all"!

GSA ENCAMPMENT '70

Not to be outdone in this age of equality between men and women, the Girl Scouts of Deer Lodge Valley held their annual encampment at Conley Lake for one week in mid-August.

Some seventy young ladies, ranging in age from seven to seventeen, took to the hills and surrounding countryside at Conley Lake for a week crammed full of activity and scouting...girl fashion.

Needless to say, as this pictorial report will show, we were privileged to enter into the festivities and witness firsthand...Girl Scouting in action. AND....needless to say we came upon a remarkable revelation concerning these frail creatures we call... girls. The exhuberance, effervescence and elan with which these young ladies literally attacked their activities was outshone only by the creditibility effectiveness and know-how with which they accomplished everything they did.

The reassuring fact is: Aa with the Boy Scouts becoming our men of tomorrow...the Girl Scouts indeed are the young women of tomorrow. They are learning..."how to live"...and we... can't help but look forward with optomistic enthusiasm at the bright promise of tomorrow.

The Girl Scouts...their vigor, enthusiasm, honest approach to learning and life, thier bright outlook and approach to reality...quite an inspiration...and...education.

Poet's Corner

WHY I DON'T SMILE

You ask me why I don't smile
    Is there something troubling me?
Just open your eyes and look around
    And tell me what do you see?

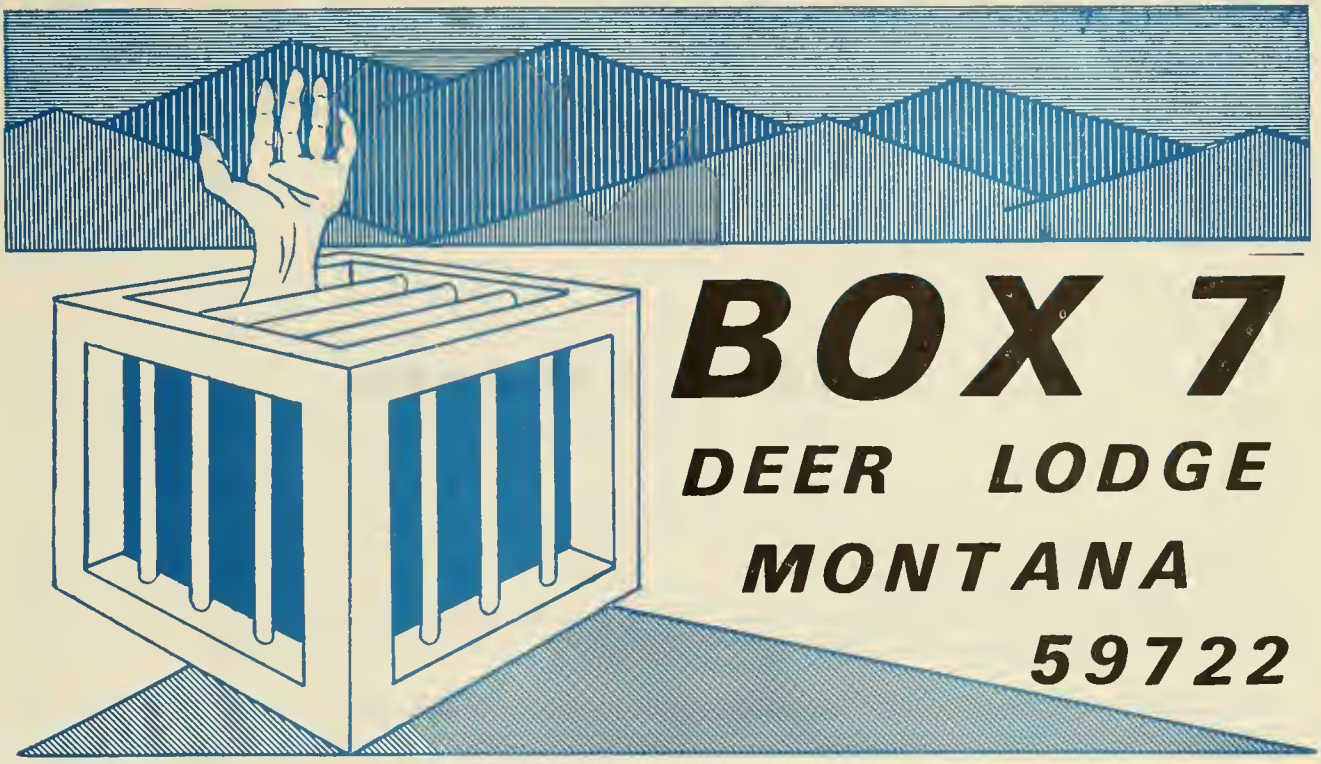
Can you understand the things people do?
    The way they treat each other,
And then tell me how far has man really come?
    When today he's killing his brother.

It makes no difference where you do it
    Or what name you use.
I know if things keep going this way
    Everyone will lose, Everybody's gonna lose.

We've done all right with material things
    You can tell by the way we live
But with all these things man has learned to do,
    He still hasn't learned to give.

If you don't have the answers right now
    I'll see you after while.
But next time I look this way,
    You'll know why I don't smile.

by Miss APRIL CLARK



BOX 7
DEER LODGE
MONTANA
59722

When the bell clangs through the emptiness
And you've overslept the night.
You find that you've no time to dress
As the cell doors closing tight.
So you dress yourself out on the tier.
Who knows just what you're doing here,
Just you I guess.
How's your lonliness?

In line you walk across the yard,
In the early morning hour.
From the wall you're stared at by a guard,
As he stands beside his tower.
With his gun in hand, Authority.
Who knows just what he'll see,
Just him I guess.
How's your lonliness?

Clothes crushed, and pockets checked
As they search for contraband.
So you stand with arms outstretched,
And it makes you less a man.
They let you back into your cell,
Who knows what's in your private hell,
Just you I guess.
How's your lonliness?

By ANTON

THE MASK

Author Unknown

Don't be fooled by me
Don't be fooled by the face I wear.
For I wear a thousand masks, masks that I'm afraid to take off,
and none of them are me.

Pretending is an art that's second nature with me, but don't
be fooled, for God's sake don't be fooled.

I give the impression that I'm secure,
that all is sunny and unruffled with me,
within as well as without,
that confidence is my name and coolness my game;
That the water's calm and I'm in command,
and that I need no one.
But don't believe me. Please!

My surface may seem smooth, but my surface is my mask.
Beneath this lies no complacence.
Beneath dwells the real me in confusion, in fear, and aloneness.
But I hide this. I don't want anybody to know it.
I panic at the thought of weakness and fear of being exposed.
That's why I frantically create a mask to hide behind,
a nonchalant, sophisticated facade,
to help me pretend, to shield me from the glance that knows.
But such a glance is precisely my salvation. My only salvation
and I know it.

That is if it's followed by acceptance, if it's followed by love.
It's the only thing that will assure me of what I can't
assure myself that I am worth something.
But I don't tell you this. I don't care. I'm afraid to.
I'm afraid you'll think less of me, that you'll laugh at me,
and your laugh would kill me.
I'm afraid that deep down I'm nothing, that I'm no good
and that you will see this and reject me.
So I play my game, my desparate game,
with a facade of assurance without, and a trembling child within,
And so begins the parade of masks. And my life becomes a front.

I idly chatter to you in the suave tones of surface talk.
I tell you everything that is really nothing,
and nothing of what's everything,
of what's crying within me;
so when I'm going through my routine do not be fooled by what I'm saying. Please listen carefully and try to hear what I'm not saying.
What I'd like to be able to say,
what for survival I need to say, but what I can't say.

I dislike hiding. Honestly!
I dislike the superficial game I'm playing, the phony game.
I'd really like to be genuine and spontaneous, and me,
but you've got to help me. You've got to hold out your hand,
even when that's the last thing I seem to want.

Only you can wipe away from my eyes the blank stare of breathing death.
Only you can call me into aliveness.
Each time you're kind, and gentle, and encouraging,
each time you try to understand because you really care,
my heart begins to grow wings, very small wings, very feeble wings, but wings.
With your sensitivity and sympathy, and your power of understanding, you can breathe life into me. I want you to know that.

I want you to know how important you are to me,
how you can be the creator of the person that is me if you choose to, please choose to. You alone can break down the wall behind which I tremble, you alone can remove my mask.
You alone can release me from my shadow-world of panic and uncertainty, from my lonely person. Do not pass me by.
Please...do not pass me by.
It will not be easy for you.
A long conviction of worthlessness builds strong walls.
The nearer you approach me, the blinder I strike back.
I fight against the very thing I cry out for,
but I am told that love is stronger than walls, and in this lies hope. Please try to beat down those walls with firm hands, but with gentle hands--for a child is very sensitive.
Who am I, you may wonder, I am someone you know very well.
For I am every man you meet and I am every woman you meet.

MPnews FEATURE

FOIL THE BUM CHECK WRITER

I can't speak for all categories of crime but about worthless checks I feel that I can speak with authority. I think I know what it takes to stop a bum check writer, because I've been stopped cold by alert, sensible-minded people who took the trouble to protect themselves.

What is going to be told you now, will give you enough information to stop dead any but the most elaborate check swindler. I don't care who you are, if you take checks, especially through your employees, you're going to get stuck once in awhile. However if you follow this advice your loss on bad checks will be negligible, and hot check writers will cut a wide path around you.

It is simply amazing how many people take checks without knowing even the most rudimentary facts about the person making or cashing the check. It's utterly surprising how many people will cash a check without asking for any type of identification. DEMAND I.D. a customer's courtesy card. Now don't be misled by the fact that possession of identification means anything by itself. It does not. Don't forget, I.D. can be stolen and easily altered to fit the description and pass cursory einspection.

Please don't waste your time trying to spot a check swindler by his looks. It's impossible. They come in all shapes, sizes, genders, colors, ages, and from all cultural and economic strata. Some are highly intelligent, while others are dull. You cannot presume from appearance that a particular person is who he says he is. For instance, a man dressed in a two hundred dollar suit and wearing a gold UM class ring set with a carat diamond may tell you he is a professor of economics at the university. From all appearances this could be true. However, if he wants you to cash his check, make him prove it. He will gladly do so, if he's who he says he is.

I don't care what the experts say, the bum check writer is fantastically extroverted. He will often carry on a conversation with four or five persons around him while in the process of cashing a bad check. Part of this is subterfuge; part is his inherent desire to show off, to play the role. He is confident and very seldom shows nervous tendencies.

So let's get specific, if you're going to keep from getting clipped by the bum check writer you must have knowledge of his ways and be vigilant. You've got to know what you are up against, instruct and train your employees if you have any, then drill them and yourself in your security system. You must constantly be on your guard if you accept checks.

If you walked up to a complete stranger and asked them to loan you ten bucks the fight would be on. Yet, seldom will you get any tupe of argument about cashing a check.

Know why? Because people are basically honest that's why. And, furthermore, they presume other people to be likewise. Businessmen are not an exception. Most of them are honest and tend to give the customer the benefit of the doubt. This works fine with ninety-five percent of the population. But brother watch out for that other five percent. They take an unlawful half-a-million dollars or more a year from the state of Montana.

So? You demand. What can be done about it?

I'll tell you!

Some of the best law enforcement minds in the state are working on this problem. Every time a new scheme is devised by the hot check writer, the law formulates counter-measures. And, if put into practice as a regular part of your defenses against being swindled, they would be effective. However, very few people seem inclined to do this. This breakdown in defenses leaves the field wide open for the check swindler to operate at will. You pay the bill.

It is axiomatic that there is no infallible way to spot a criminal before he commits a crime, and few effective ways to deter the ones who are determined to penetrate your defenses. In most instances it's mainly a case of catching the culprit after the fact, and then bringing forces to bear to contain him. But the damage has been done and recovery of lost money is a seldom, almost never thing.

All checks nowadays should carry several pertinent bits of information such as name and location of bank, date, amount (both in fugures and spelled out) and a legible signature. Close examination of such key items can sometimes tip you off to a worthless check. Today, in almost all the larger towns in the state, banks will not accept personal checks for payment unless they are personalized (printed with writer's name, address, account number, all with magnetic ink) But remember that a personalized check in itself doesn't mean a darn thing. So before accepting a check look for:

1. Non-local Bank

Use extra care in accepting a check drawn on an out of town bank. Use even more care on out of state checks. Require the best type of identification on these checks. A bum check writer likes to use these because it takes a long time for them to clear the bank and bounce back. It is generally wise to let banks handle out of town checks.

2. Local Banks

During banking hours, and even in some of the larger towns at any hour of the day or night, you can call the bank to verify a customer's account. Never never, fail to do this when the least shadow of a doubt exists in your mind. If you ask a legitimate customer if he minds you checking the bank, he will usually tell you to go ahead. A bum check writer will go pale as a sheet, probably become indignant, demand his check back.

3. Date on Check

Examine the check for the accuracy of day, month, and year. Do not under any circumstances accept an undated check, post dated check, or one that is more than thirty days old. You have no legal recourse if you do.

4. Amount

Be sure the numerical amount agrees with the written amount. Do not accept checks that have strike-overs, erasures, blots, unusual spacing in the numerical amount values. Even if you have sanity-laps, the bank won't. You'll probably lose your money.

5. Payee

When you take a personal check, have the payor make it out to you or your firm. Be leary of a check presented to you already made out with the payee space blank or just the word "cash" inserted. Very special care should be taken with two party checks. Payroll checks endorsed by a second party, counter-endorsed by a third party, and given to you for collection and further endorsement, should be avoided like the plague. Let a bank figure it out.

6. Amount of Check

Let me say unequivocally here, that most bum check writers want money, not merchandise. (This of course doesn't include the big ticket items like a TV set, typewriter, expensive camera or jewelry...this type of merchandise is usually converted into cash at the nearest hock shop.) If your policy is plainly stated and rigidly enforced not to accept checks for over the amount of the purchase you've got the biggest part of the battle won against the hot check writer. By all means, never give over-the-amount of purchase money to people you do not know. Sure, you like to accomodate your good customers and play banker. This is sometimes good business. However, if you do it for one you must do it for all, or run the risk of offending some legitimate customer with whom you are, not well acquainted. And if you do it for all, well it's your money. At least set a limit over which you will not be taken.

Now you can identify the check, so let's talk about the type of checks you will deal with.

1. Personal Checks

This check is written and signed by the person making it. This type of check is the one most widely used and the one that is going to cost you the most money. It's a simple matter to drop by any bank in many times and pick up a book of non-personalized checks and go into business. The checks are usually written for under $50.00: grocery stores, drug stores, bars, filling stations and small mercantile stores bear the brunt of the assault. In many of the smaller towns, the stores keep checks from various banks for their customers convenience. This is asking for it. Get rid of them----actually in this day of computerized banking, counter checks should be done away with.

It is wise to accept only personalized checks with the magnatized information on them and then this is no sure bet. There are those that will open up a small bank account, wait until they get their personalized checks and then literally flood the community. Too, some have the idiotic notion, as long as they have blank checks----they have money in their account.

2. Two-Party Checks

This check is issued by one person to a second person who endorses it so it may be cashed by a third person. You are most susceptible to a loss, because the maker can stop payment. Only accept these checks from people you KNOW.

3. Payroll Checks

Always identify this check thoroughly before you do anything else. A real professional check writer may, because it is relatively simple to have payroll checks printed, may have his checks made up, so it is not always possible to spot a phony check. In the absence of a courtesy card system, it will then fall to your system of identifying the person to catch up any schemd. There are so many schemes that we couldn't begin to enumerate them. One often used and almost always successful scheme, is for a check ring to move into town, open a phony business, open a legitimate bank account with a nomianl sum, get a bank issued check book, then cash a few good ones. Suddenly, over a week-end they put down 50 to 100 checks for ten or fifteen thousand dollars and blow town. Of course the checks are no good. This scheme is very hard to spot, for even the bank will verify the first good checks. The passers of these "New Company" checks will almost always be people who came into town with the check ring. They will be living in hotels, motels and only on rare occasion will they rent a home.

If a payroll check is new to you find out about it. Find out how long the company has been in business. Most payroll checks are good to be sure. However, should you take a bad one---let's say for $145.60----the party buys $10.60 worth of groceries and you give him $135.00 in your hard earned cash, that money comes right off the top of your business. It's sheer loss of profit.

Now you know how to identify the types of checks that are goint to give you the most trouble. The next important item is to identify the person passing the check.

Once you are satisfied that the check is genuine, the question is. Is the person offering the check the right person? Require identification. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Often pointed questions will dissuade the hot check writer.

Keep in mind, that no identification is foolproof. It can be stolen and altered to fit the description of the check writer. A bum check writer is a bum check writer no matter what type identification you ask him to show.

Here is an identification list which experts generally agree are the most acceptable.

A. Current Driver's License

As the license has a picture, be sure and compare with the person who is attempting to cash the check. Pictures can be changed on a driver's license so make certain the physical description given on the license and the individual match. If for any reason they do not match----find out why! Do not be afraid to question until you are satisfied. And remember you are not obligated to take the check. If you feel that something is not right. Refuse. Don't let you or your employees get so anxious for a sale that you overlook good judgement.

B. Shopping Plate - Local Credit Card

If these cards bear a signature or photo of person and are laminated, they make acceptable identification. Retail merchants organizations carry lists of lost or stolen credit cards. Keep a current list handy and refer to it in each case.

Some types of identification are valueless for use in check cashing and personal identification. The following should never be used to identify a person wishing to cash a check: Social Security Card, Letters, Club and Organization Cards, Initialed Jewelry, Bank Books, Library Cards, Work Permits, Unsigned Credit Cards (Don't accept a Company Credit Card to cash a personal check) Voter's Registration Cards, Learners Permits, and Bank Deposit Slips.

Do not take any check unless the maker or endorser can produce acceptable identification. Anyone wishing to cash a check expects to identify themself and should be prepared to do so.

Always compare signatures. Always! Did you get that? And do it regardless of the type of I.D. the customer uses. Instruct your employees in the procedure of identification, then drill it into their heads by constant reminder and training sessions. Compare the person standing in front of you with other physical data from the I.D.. Never take anything for granted. Just because an Air Force Captain is standing before you in uniform, does not exclude the possibility he may be an impostor. Make him prove it!

Set a check cashing polich and religiously adhere to it. If you have employees, demand close adherence to your program...or else!

If you faithfully follow your policy, it is doubtful that you will take many bouncers. When all check-cashers are treated alike, customers have no cause to feel they are being treated unfairly. The only one likely to complain and try to broach the system is "YOU KNOW WHO."

This of course isn't always infallable. There is always the person who has passed all the tests, has even cahsed good checks with you in the past, but suddenly goes bad for obscure reason. (The compulsive check writer is almost impossible to defend against.) You might want to limit your check cashing policy in the following manner:

1. Unlimited checks for amount of purchase.
2. Do not play banker. If you are in the habit of allowing your customers to cash personal checks and receive cash, process these checks carefully. Anyone can have a check returned by the bank for one reason or another but the second time an individual has a check returned, you had better become ultra cautious in further acceptance of his checks. Because sooner or later you are going to get stuck.

Your policy should include using a hot check list in your town, if one is available. Such lists help you spot persons who are known, or suspected, as a bad check passer.

If you have done all these things and still get hooked, review your system for leaks. Employees apathy toward accepting checks is a big reason why stores get stuck with bouncing paper. The larger the store, the more difficult it becomes to keep employees interested in catching the bad checks.

DO NOT, we repeat DO NOT, if you have the type of business where lines form at a check out station, accept a check for more than the amount of the purchase. In one of these lines set up a special station for the cashing of checks in which the customer wants cash. Have some one available who will take the time to carefully check the identification before accepting checks. The bum check writer loves it when the business in a store is booming and you are trying to rush the customers through.

Remember, no one is obligated to accept any check from anyone, no matter if they have gold-plated identification. You should only accept the check when the customer has met your check cashing policy. You want to make the sale. But never under any circumstances accept a check when:

1. The maker or endorser is intoxicated.
2. When he does not have acceptable identification.

Be suspicious of strangers using these lines of approach.

1. "Oh you know me, I'm so-and-so. I've cashed checks here lots ot times.
2. Knows everyone in the store by their first names. A name dropper.
3. "I'm so-and-so. I seem to have come off without my wallet. But Mr. so-and-so, the manager, will O.K. this check for me."

To foil the check passer, it might be wise to follow the following rules.

1. Set a policy or procedure for check cashing. Stick with it.
2. Positively identify the check.
3. Positively identify the passer.
4. Compare the photo and signature on all I.D. with the party cashing the check.
5. Do not be afraid to ask questions.
6. Record vital information, so recourse is possible if check bounces.
7. Do not cash counter checks.
8. Refuse, if you are not completely satisfied.

With this we hope that we have given you sufficient information to help you curtail your losses to the bum check writer. But, we are only human, we could have forgotten something. Some of you may pay attention some won't-------to those of you who don't----you're most apt to end up with a cash drawer full of BOUNCING PAPER!

THE THOUGHT

By
Archie Warwick

I stood at the cell house door and watched the sunset turn from its bright oranges, reds, and finally to the blues and then darkness. As I saw these colors changing, I looked backward and saw the changes in myself. I saw the brightness that started out, then the changing from the brightness to the dimmer colors, until finally the blackness.

I asked myself, "Does this changing in nature of the sunset represent our lives here." As I slowly let myself dwell on this, it suddenly dawned on me, that when the sun goes down it also arises.

I look back and try to think of the times when I had that peace in myself. When I didn't have to worry about the big things or the little things. When I go back that far, it brings to mind that I would have to have been a new born babe. That is the time that I didn't have to worry about all the things that a person has on his mind today.

I asked myself, "Where then can I change this darkness?" It comes to me in a kind of a confused state at first, but as I let my mind dwell on it, it takes on meaning.

Finally it takes ahold of me---what it is all about. As the sun comes up there is brightness, and as it dwells over the land and moves on its never ending course from east to west, it grows dim. My life has done this very same thing. God said that unless we be born again, we cannot get into Heaven. Does this mean that if I'm born again spiritually, and not physically, that this darkness will change to a brightness, and God says that He is the Light in the darkness, and that when we turn our sins are as far from us as the east is from the west. Do I dare let myself go in this direction to see if this can come about. I shall see if what the Lord says is true; "Seek and Ye shall find, ask and Ye shall receive, knock and the door will be opened."

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS

There are men presently awaiting release on parole who are seeking employment. Steady employment is a requisite of parole and these men cannot be released until they have secured an acceptable form of employment. Won't you consider helping these men in their efforts to rebuild their lives and to become useful productive members of the community? Firms throughout the state are requested to join this program to hire parolees. Start a "Pilot Program" with your firm now. For additional information please write to:

EMPLOYMENT, P.O. Box 7, Deer Lodge, Montana 59722

And you may consider this: Parolees have more to lose than just a job!

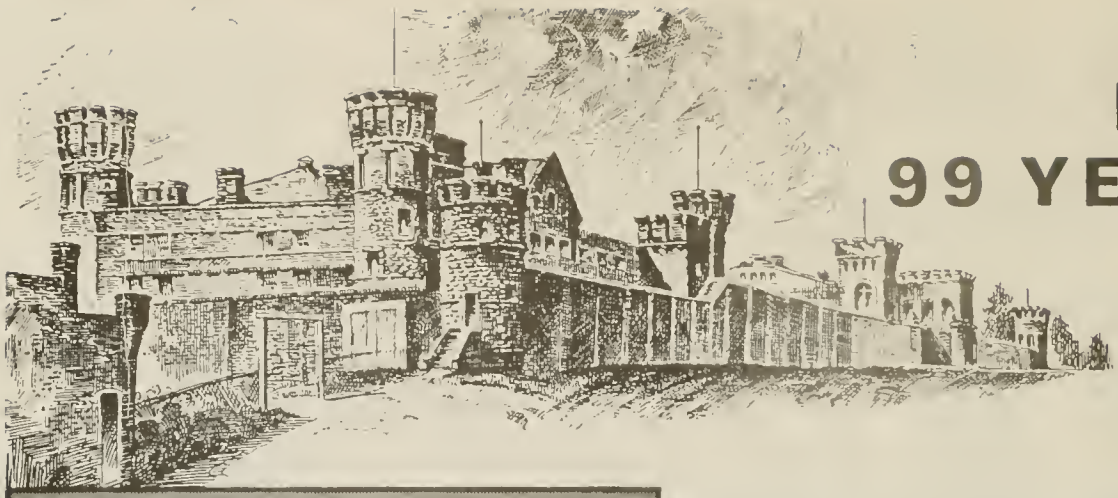
HELP renew a Citizen .....hire a PAROLEE

HELP US

ESCAPE

FROM OUR PAST

Make him a TAXPAYER NOT a.....TAXBURDEN



The First 99 YEARS MSP 1871 - 1970

MPnews FOTO-FEATURE

PART TWO

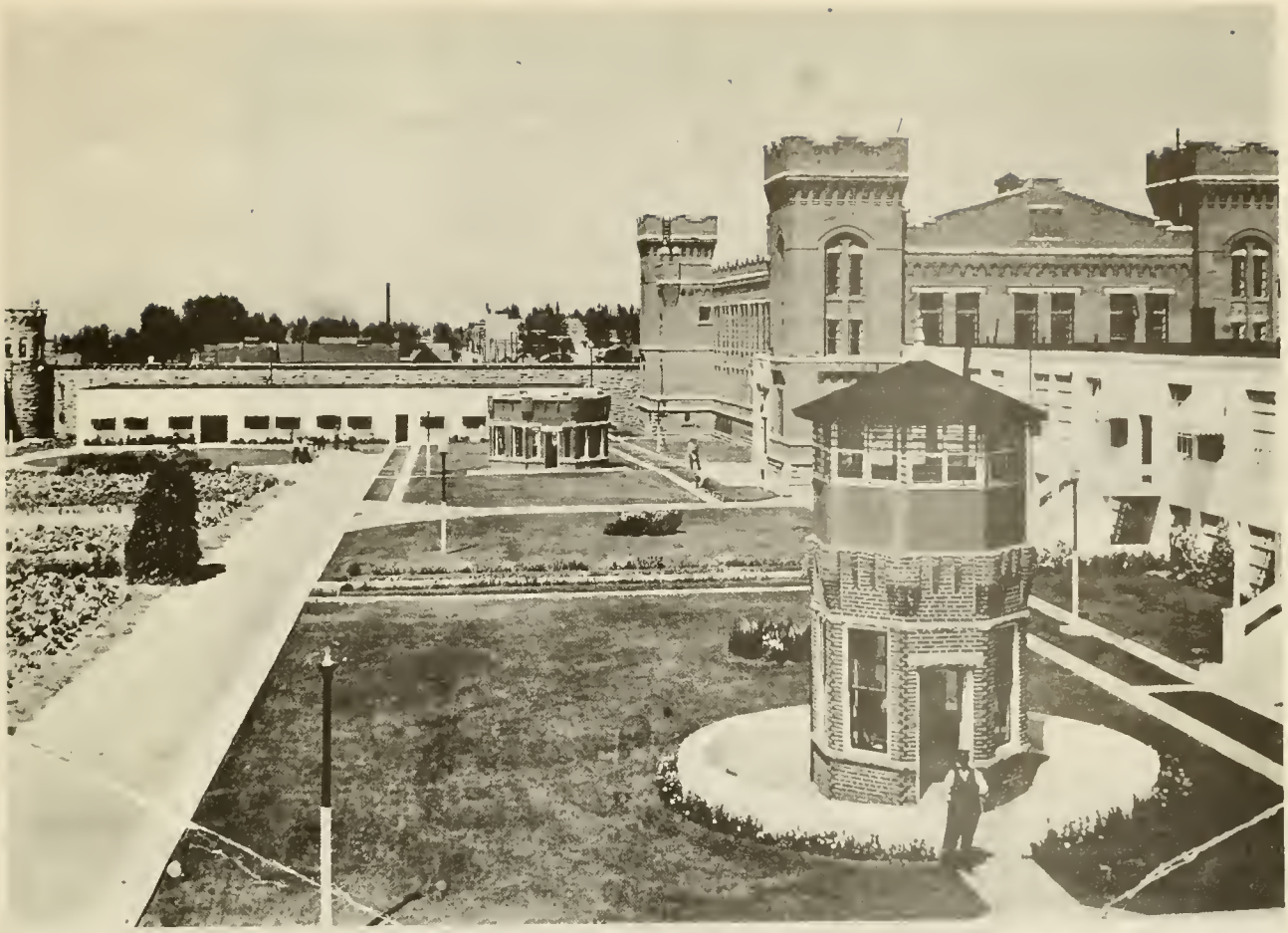
Peering back through the past at our 99 year old prison with some degree of comprehension, attempting to recaputre those moments from a bygone era is like trying to pick up the sands of time...a grain at a time.

There are as many stories as those inmates numbering from 1 through the nearly 23,000 to date...and that would be presenting only one facet of a many sided, much argued, sometimes humorous often violent and always degrading near century of Territorial and State penology.

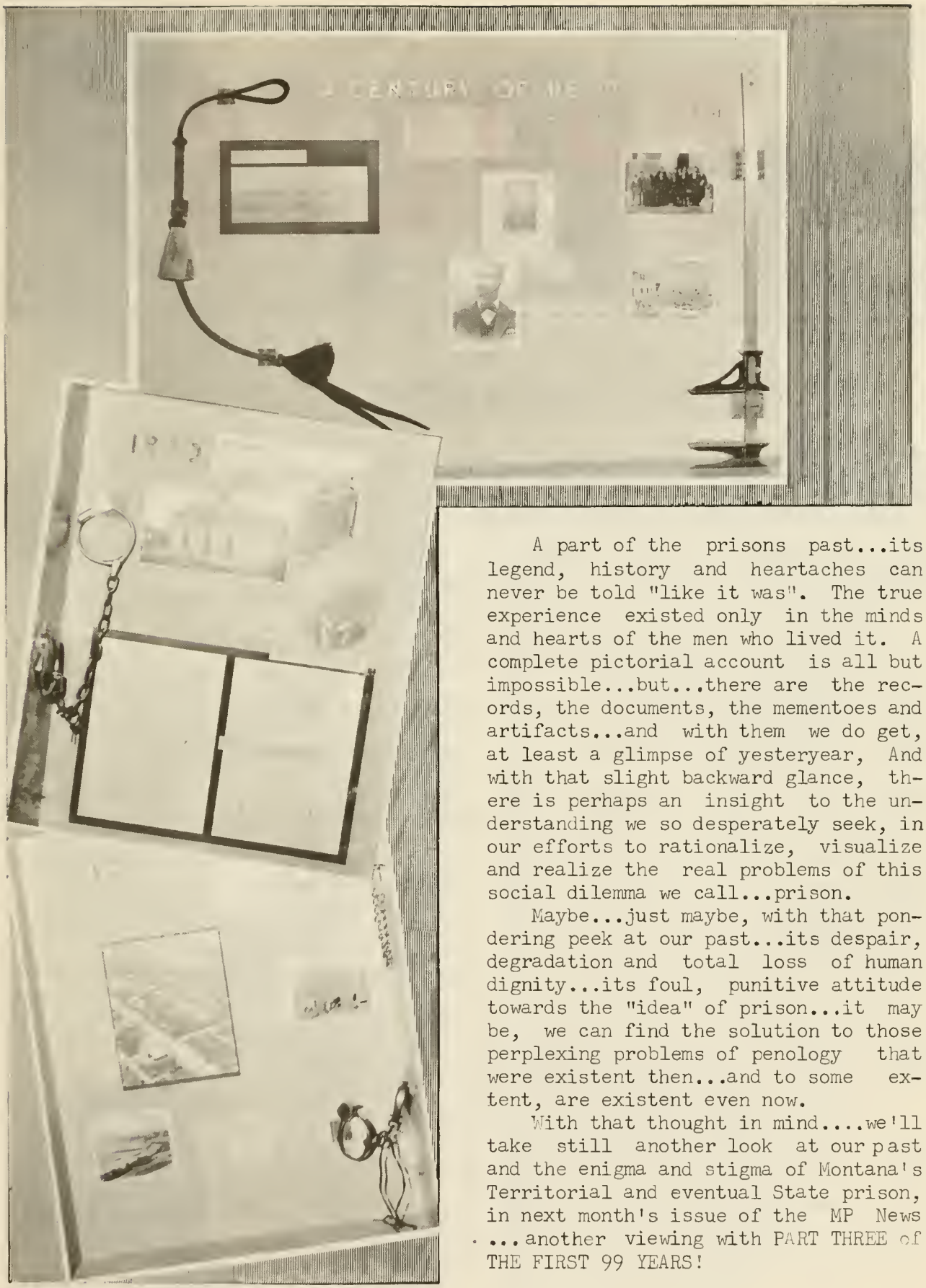
With the aid of old documents, records, tintype and glass plate photographs we have attempted to catch in our magic mirror, a glimpse at the community, the prison, its inmates, the manner and mores of a time long past.

On July 2nd 1871, the NEW Prison for the Territory of Montana opened iron banded oak doors for its....first prisoner.

Here then, in photographic form, the Territory of Montana...and Montana State Prison.....PART TWO.....of the first...99 YEARS.



Mount Powell and State Penitentiary, Deer Lodge, Mont.



A part of the prisons past...its legend, history and heartaches can never be told "like it was". The true experience existed only in the minds and hearts of the men who lived it. A complete pictorial account is all but impossible...but...there are the records, the documents, the mementoes and artifacts...and with them we do get, at least a glimpse of yesteryear, And with that slight backward glance, there is perhaps an insight to the understanding we so desperately seek, in our efforts to rationalize, visualize and realize the real problems of this social dilemma we call...prison.

Maybe...just maybe, with that pondering peek at our past...its despair, degradation and total loss of human dignity...its foul, punitive attitude towards the "idea" of prison...it may be, we can find the solution to those perplexing problems of penology that were existent then...and to some extent, are existent even now.

With that thought in mind....we'll take still another look at our past and the enigma and stigma of Montana's Territorial and eventual State prison, in next month's issue of the MP News ...another viewing with PART THREE of THE FIRST 99 YEARS!

by
Gordie Wilkins

Are sports a necessity in prison? I feel, people who engage in sports at an institution, have less energies and time to participate in adolescent advancements against the rules and regulations set down by the prison authorities.

Sports in prison tend to build a competitive spirit which a person will usually carry over to his employment or schooling. Lets face it, an ex-con just getting out of prison has to be competitive, more so than the square-john or he is dead in the water.

Sports in prison also help a man learn to get along with other people as a team or a loner. He also learns to take pride in himself and tries to improve his performance in the field of sports. I feel if a person learns this while inside prison he will carry these things with him the day he is to be paroled or discharged and he will make a better employee along with being a better man.

Sports also help men keep in good shape physically along with being kept mentally alert, after all, who wants to hire a fat, lazy, slowitted person.

I feel men can do better and easier time once he has engaged in some sport. He will find little time to think of the things he is missing once he is engaged in a sport, and when the evening rolls around he finds it very easy to fall asleep.

So keep in shape and have an alert mind, you may be shorter than you hop-to be.

GORDIE WILKINS SPORTS EDITOR

The Inside Team of slow-pitch ball players gained the distinction of being the best softball team around in the Deer Lodge City Tournament. The full coverage of the championship game will be highlighted in the following pages.

Rothe Hall fast-pitch players came inside to try out our players on a hot sunny afternoon only to meet a strong pitching staff consisting of "Gordie", and Dave. Gordie was the winning pitcher with Dave coming in in the final two innings to relieve Gordie of the chores. Both pitchers pitched an excellent game. Dave had 18 straight in the win column prior to this game.

Rothe Hall participated in the City Tournament along with the Inside team and placed in the middle of the team standings, the individual standings are posted on the following pages along with the team pictures.

With the softball season coming to a close, we can say the M.S.P. teams were well represented by capable players both from Rothe Hall and from the Inside Teams. We will place the trophy won from the tournament...along with other trophys won by athletes at Montana State Prison.

MP NEWS

August 31, 1970

M.S.P. REIGNS AS SLOW-PITCH CHAMPIONS

BLAST JC's 42-14

The inside team of slow-pitch ballplayers gained the distinction of ing the best slow-pitch softball team around in the DEER LODGE CITY TOURNAMENT of 1970.

Monday evening, August 31, 1970 was the date for the Championship Game. The remaining two teams to play in the Championship Game were the local JC's... who were defeated once and the MSP Team who went undefeated in the Tournament.

The game kicked off at 7:00 PM with a bang for the stationary boys and they never let up on their rivals.

Power was the factor, both teams displaying good to excellent fielding everyone on the MSP nine collected a home run but little " T ", Terry Gibson who weighs only 120 lbs. with his baseball shoes on. " T " in turn had the most.... runs batted in with some fine baserunning as an added attraction.

Smitty and Finch led the hitting with three home runs each. " Gordie ", who could play college ball or pro ball most anywhere followed with many fine plays in the outfield. Gary Radi had many fine saves for the inside team out in left field. The winning pitcher was Sam Thigh.

The local JC's had good hits along with some fine stops in the infield. At this time I do not have the correct lineup and score sheet to round out the JC individual efforts.

Harry Huntsinger, Recreation Director and Coach at MSP commented in the fine ballplaying on both teams. He also felt the game was very well umpired.

Both teams displayed a fine quality of sportsmanship throughout the entire game.

MSP welcomed the invitation to play in the City Tournament and will be looking forward to further softball tournaments sponsored by the local merchants in 1971.

DAVE COUNSELL
For
MSP Insiders

INSIDE ALL-STARS

NAME	AB	HITS	PER	HRS	P
RADI	7	3	429	1	LF
BALD'IN	7	4	751	1	1B
FORD	7	6	888	2	SS
WILKINS	7	5	714	1	CF
WAR'ICK	7	1	200	1	R
SMITH	6	5	833	3	3B
COUNSELL	6	3	500	1	C
FINCH	6	5	833	3	2B
THIGH	6	3	500	1	P
GIBSON	6	4	666	0	RF

ROTHE HALL

OFF AND RUNNING

ON THE WAY HOME

INSIDE

M.S.P. --- THE CHAMPS!

MPnews

Hot Air Balloon

How come the courts take the time to convict you but can't take the time to release you? They can have you in the pen in 24 hours or less with 900 years, but they'll take forever to rule on your motions or just stall you from now on when they've goofed somewhere along the way. How many sets of rules are there to play by? Answer: Too many, and they're all theirs! Food for thought? Hmmmmmm!

Did you hear about the ex-con who was looking for a job? He found one and pulled it!

Wonder why they never talk of the guys who come from broken homes, with alcoholic parents who were dropouts, that made good? THAT should be news!

After looking into the mirror the other day, I believe that I've got the only hour-glass figure around here in which the sand is permanently settled around the 6:30 P.M. line. All in the bottom!

Did you hear about the inmate who was discharged? He said he felt "very put out" over the whole thing!

Then there was the inmate who filed a civil suit with the S.P.C.A. against the prison administration. He alleged they mistreated him and figured it was "cruelty to animals"!

Sadist: A gut who'll beat you every time he gets a chance!

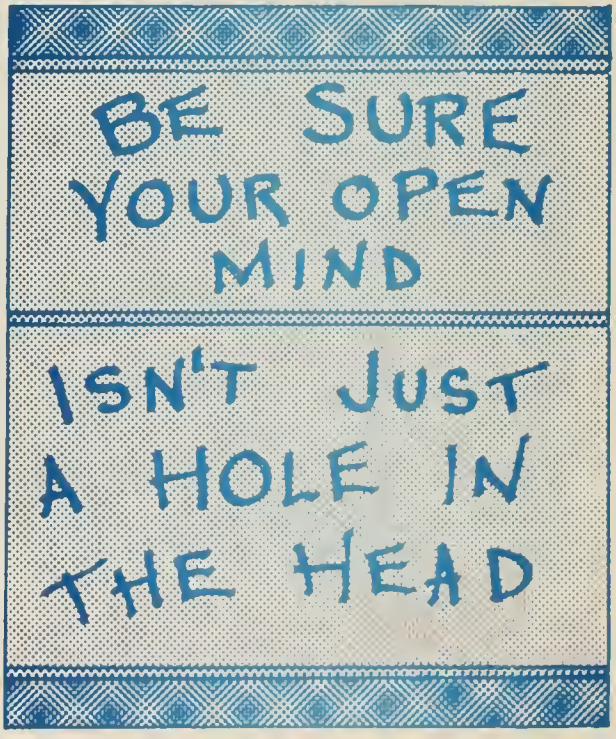
"Make-up": What women put on their faces to cover up with, and what inmates do to a story on the parole board to cover up with!

Terderfoot on a cross-country hike: "Oh, what a funny looking cow, why hasn't it any horns?"

Country Hiker: "There are many reasons why a cow doesn't have horns. Some do not have them until late in life. Others are dehorned. While still other breeds are not supposed to have horns. This cow doesn't have horns because it is a horse."

When the going seems easy, check to make sure your'e not going downhill.

Caution: This column may be hazardous to rehabilitating minds.



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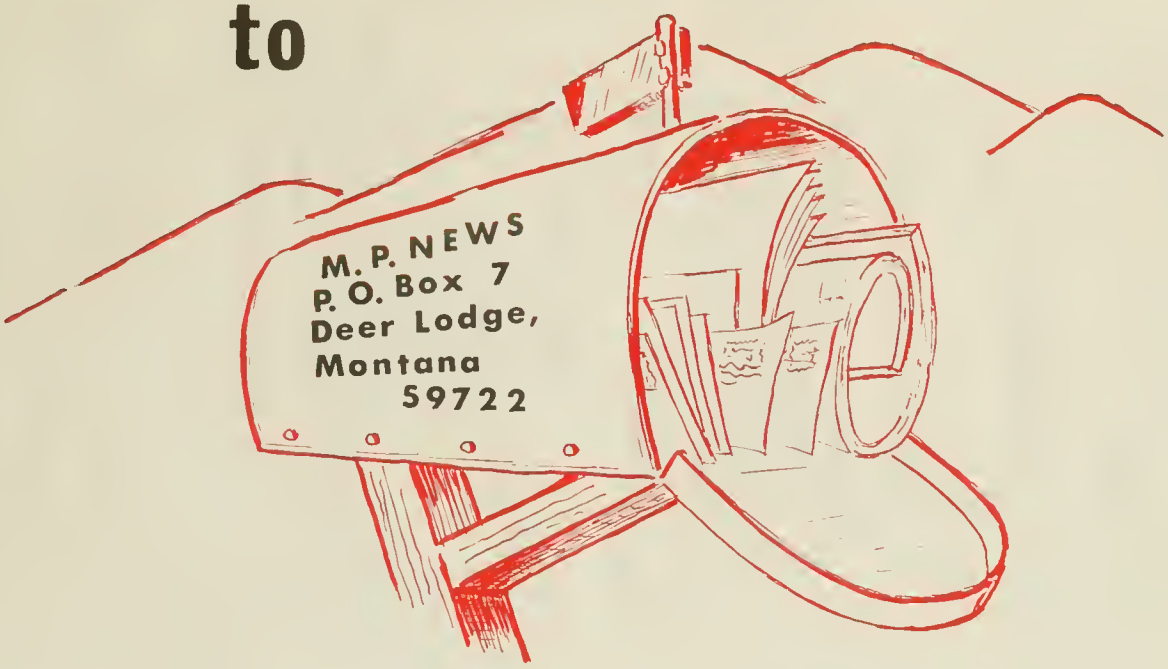

HARVEST TIME M.S.P.

THE WEEKEND CHRIST CAME TO PRISON

CURSILLO

In the next issue of.... MPnews

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

Volume 12, Number 5, September 1970. Has it been but five months since the beginning of our foray into the field of journalism?

As always, reflection shows the quick passage of time and our hindsight reflects the blundering moments of our sometimes zealous literary efforts.

The standard editorial concept of most penal publications would appear to be...the relating of information and events pertinent only to, and directed only to the inmate. The accent is centered on the inmate, his problems, plans, personality...the old and tired concept of penology. Little if anything is written about the relation between prison and society, (its place in society). Nothing is written of a communicative nature by inmates for the public.

And therein lies our goal. A publication by inmates for public consumption.

With much introspection and analytical examination of motives, re-determining the goals originally aimed for and a long hard look at any small accomplishment in this direction...the hoped for conclusion to this happy endeabor becomes slightly blurred by the mixed emotions of "some ability at communication of ideas" and a frustration at (in our minds at any rate) an "inability to complete the assigned task".

How do we measure what we hope has come to be a "small success"?

What are the criteria that were and will be the guidelines for the future?

Have we shown the necessary objectivity in our presentation of ideas?

The queries and quandries have been many. But the most important may very well be...has our committment to reporting the facts and the editorializing been constructive and truly a contribution to understanding through this means of communication?

We believe they have.

Through ponderous piles of paper, forgotten hours of study, typing, and bleary eyed wee morning moments of regret and reconsideration...to a conscious awareness of a needful objectivity, committment and involvement... into the process of completion of... first an idea, then the implementation (the physical means of putting that notion in print)...and finally the ultimate thought that has become a reality. Receptiveness and...acceptance.

Those long moments, days and months of labor have now drawn to a close ...we have tried, to some degree we have reached a level of accomplishment and acceptance...we are satisfied...in short...the pleasure was all ours!

MPnews

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PHOTOS } ..... `Pip´ Squeak
LAYOUT }
MULTILITH ... `Dinger´ Williams
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